

VERSION WITH MARKS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Three Times Amended) A vibration wave driving apparatus comprising:
 - a vibration member formed by an elastic member having an electro-mechanical energy conversion element fixed thereto, and having a through-hole extending through a central portion thereof;
 - a support member fixed to said vibration member;
 - a rotary member in press contact with said vibration member, and having a through-hole extending through a central portion thereof;
 - an output shaft extending through the through-hole of said vibration member and the through-hole of said rotary member, and rotatable with said rotary member;
 - a case packaging said vibration member and said rotary member therein, and fixing one end portion of said support member, thereby supporting said vibration member; and
 - a plurality of bearings provided in said case, said plurality of bearings rotatably supporting said output shaft,
- wherein [the] said output shaft [supports] provides a bearing surface that locates a radial position of said vibration member at [a] an axial position [substantially] within the through-hole of said vibration member corresponding to a node of a vibration generated in said vibration member[, within the through-hole of said vibration member].

2. (Twice Amended) A vibration wave driving apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the through-hole of said vibration member provides a bearing surface at the axial position corresponding to a node of the vibration generated in said vibration member.

3. (Amended) A vibration wave driving apparatus according to Claim 1, [wherein] further comprising at least one bearing disposed in the through-hole of said vibration member, between said vibration member and [has a bearing supported by] said output shaft, each said at least one bearing being provided at a respective node of a vibration generated in said vibration member.

4. (Amended) A vibration wave driving apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said at least one bearing [the in the through-hole of said vibration member supported by said output shaft] is a sliding bearing.

5. (Amended) A vibration wave driving apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein at least one of the bearing surface of said output shaft [supporting the sliding bearing or the] and a bearing surface of said sliding bearing is formed of resin.

8. (Amended) A vibration wave driving apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein at least one of the bearing surface of said output shaft [supported by the sliding bearing or the] and a bearing surface of said sliding bearing is formed of resin.

9. (Three Times Amended) A vibration wave driving apparatus according to Claim 1, [wherein] further comprising at least one bearing disposed in the through-hole of said rotary member, between said rotary member and [has a bearing supported by] said output shaft.

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